(b) if so, the States in which the Central Para-military Forces are working under the Army; and

(c) by when the Para-military Forces will get operational autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Central Para-military Forces are placed under operational control of the Army only when it is so required in view of the compulsions of prevailing security scenario or developments on border. In order to maintain unity of Command it is not considered appropriate to grant operational autonomy to the Central Para-military Forces while functioning under the Operational Control of the Army. It is not in public interest to divulge further details in this regard.

Non-Brahmins Priest in Temples

†1552. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a division bench of Kerala High Court has pronounced a decision that only Brahmins are not entitled to become Priests in Temples but any qualified non-brahmin who is well versed in traditional rituals and religious rites can be made a priest in a Temple with reference to Article 17 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether Central Government propose to implement said decision in Temples, in the country where trustee is the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the policy to be adopted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Union Government.

Population explosion

†1553. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present population of India and how does it compare

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

with the population and areas of Russia, U.S.A., England, France, Japan and Australia;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to check population explosion; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to formulate strict laws in this regard and if so, by when, such a law would be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The population and area of India as compared to the population and areas of Russia, U.S.A.. United Kingdom, France, Japan and Australia are given below:

Name of Country	Reference Year	Population	Area Km	In relation with other countries	
				Population of India is	Area India
Russian Federation	2000	146.9	17,075,400	7.0 times	0.2
United State of America	April,	281.4	9,363,520	3.6 times	0.3
United	2000	58.8	242,900	17.5 times	13.0
France	2000	59.1	551,500	17.4 times	5.7
Japan	01.10.2000	126.9	377,829	8.1 times	8.4
Australia	2000	18.9	7,741,220	54.3 times	0.4
India	01.03.2001	1,027.0*	3,166,414"		

Note:

1 Separate data for England is not available, therefore, data for United Kingdom is given.

2. For India, USA and Japan the population figures are as per the respective census.

3. Source for population data for other countries; World Population Prospects (midyear estimates) 1998 Revision.

4. Area figures of countries, other than Indian and Russian Federation, have been taken from "The Demography Year Book, United Nations, 1998."

* The population of India includes the estimated population of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodlya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted during February-March, 2001 due to natural calamities,

** The area figure exoludes 78,114 sq. k.m. under the illegal occupation of Pakistan, 5,180 sq. Km. illegally handed over by Pakistan to China and 37,555 sq. km. under the illegal occupation of China in Ladakh district.

(b) and (c) The Government has adopted, the National Population (NPP) February 2000, which envisages certain National Socio-Demographic Goals to be achieved by 2010 for paying the way for a stable population in the country by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth and social development. It provides a poilcy frame-work for advancing these goals and prioritizing strategies during the next decade, to meet the reproductive and child health needs of the people of India, and to achieve net replacement levels (TFR=2.1) by 2010.

The National Population Policy 2000 (NPP 2000) does not specifically advocate a 'two child norm'. It affirms the commitment of Government towards stabilizing population of the country by allowing its citizens to make voluntary and informed decisions about their family size.

Demonstrations in high security zone

1554. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jamait Ulama-I-Hind activists during their demonstrations in the Capital on 14/15 Ocotober, 2002 had gained free and uninterrupted access to the high security zone near the PM's house;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been ordered on the lapse of Delhi Police personnel;

(c) whether Government have taken a serious note of the fact that the demonstrations coincided with the on-going Dissehera/Ramlila celebrations in the Capital; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Some of the activists of Jamait-Ulama-Hind, in difiuance of police directions, staged a dharna on the 15th October, 2002 at Kamal Ataturk Marg, New Delhi and later dispersed peacefully. Their congregation at this point did not constitute a breach of security as such since Kamal Ataturk Marg is a public thoroughfare. However, the activists contravened prohibitory orders under section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code applicable in this area for which violation action as per law has been initiated.